

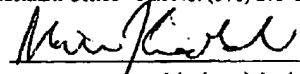
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Date: February 24, 2006


Matthew J. LaskoskiIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re Application of

Cheung et al.

Art Unit: 3644

Serial No.: 09/975,507

Examiner: Dinh, Tien Quang

Filed: October 21, 2001

For: CONFORMABLE SKIN ELEMENT SYSTEM FOR ACTIVE VORTEX CONTROL

REPLY BRIEF

To the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Answer, dated January 24, 2006, kindly consider the following:

The Applicant's arguments and responses to the Examiner's statements made in the Final Office Action have been addressed in the Applicant's Appeal Brief. Those arguments are incorporated by reference here and repeated.

The Examiner's Answer repeats the same arguments as made in the Final Office Action. The Examiner has not provided adequate evidence that the Lurz reference contains "one or more conformable skin elements with each skin element forming a pressure transducer and flow modifier" as indicated in claim 1 of the Applicant's invention. The Examiner merely refers to the sensors 1, 3, 4 and vibration transmitters 2 of Lurz as being plural skin elements.

The Examiner refers to column 3, lines 58 to column 4, line 12 and column 4, lines 28 - 43 of Lurz as teaching "a whole system to control the boundary layer". However, nowhere in Lurz, and particularly the cited passages, is there reference to the sensors 1, 3, 4 or vibration transmitters 2 acting as conformable skin elements with each skin element forming a pressure transducer and flow modifier.

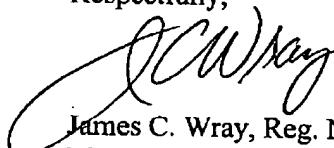
Neither the sensors 1, 3, 4 or vibration transmitters 2 of Lurz are equivalent to the conformable skin elements with each skin element forming a pressure transducer and flow modifier as described in claim 1 of the Applicant's invention. The sensors 1, 3, 4 of Lurz are not the same as the Applicant's invention because the sensors 1, 3, 4 do not act as pressure transducers. The sensors 1, 3, 4 cannot convert pressure into an analog signal that then acts as a flow modifier. Furthermore, the vibration sensors 2 cannot convert pressure into an analog signal that then acts as a flow modifier.

Thus, the Applicant's invention is patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103.

CONCLUSION

Reversal of the Examiner and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully,



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